

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 2-12 without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter.

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to submit amendments and information in any other manner indicated below.

**PENDING CLAIMS**

Original Claim 1 has been retained from the parent application, and original Claims 2-12 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to file a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment containing appropriate claims directed to Applicant's claimed invention for examination in the present application. At entry of this paper, Claim 1 is pending in the application.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The specification has been amended to identify the application upon which benefit is claimed in the present divisional case under §120.

**ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST**

Hitachi, Ltd. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present application by virtue of the Assignment recorded in Serial No. 09/517,594 recorded 3 March 2000 at Reel 010600, Frames 0209 *et seq.*

**CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120**

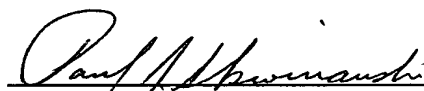
In view of the amendment to the specification to identify the prior application upon which benefit is claimed in the present divisional, Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of the claim for priority under §120 in the present application.

Further, Applicant claims priority of JP 11-301966 filed 25 October 1999, the certified copy of which was submitted in prior application Serial No. 09/517,594 on 4 April 2000. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §119 in the present application.

**CONCLUSION**

This Preliminary Amendment concurrently with the present divisional application, and no Petition or extension of time is possible. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 500.38285VX1).

Respectfully submitted,



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